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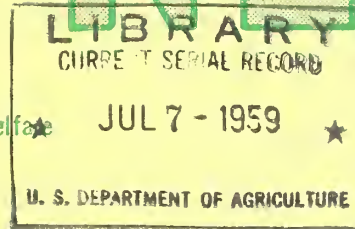
"We must open wider the doors of opportunity....
for the good of our country and all our people"
President Eisenhower

NEWS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Committee for RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Under Secretary, Department of the Interior
Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture (Chairman)
Under Secretary, Department of Commerce
Under Secretary, Department of Labor
Under Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Administrator, Small Business Administration
Member, Council of Economic Advisers



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Some 200 people representing 34 States and 17 Federal agencies participated in a rural development workshop conference in May. County, area, and State workers reviewed all phases of the program in the five-day meeting, which was held at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia.

Among nationally prominent speakers who addressed the group during the meeting were Secretary of Agriculture Benson, Under Secretary Morse, Dr. Karl Brandt, Member of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, Dr. Randell P. Klemme, official of the Northern Natural Gas Company, David S. Weaver, Director of Extension and Dr. H. Brooks James of North Carolina State College, and others.

Early this month, the Department of Agriculture released a report of the working groups which met during the Jackson's Mill session to provide guidelines for future rural and resource development work. Following are some highlights of this report.

Program Organization State and county RD committees need to cooperate more closely with local groups working on the program.

Determining Resources The first step is to make a study of local resources and conditions, then follow up with some creative thinking about solutions to problems. "Separate the problems that can be solved from those that cannot."

Coordination of Effort National and State-level agencies need to keep their own personnel informed about the program through agency channels, and also to coordinate more closely with each other. However, local non-government leaders and their accomplishments should always be kept to the forefront.

Agricultural Development Although the possibility is limited in many areas of increasing incomes through farm improvement, RD workers should not overlook farm opportunities where they exist. Workers can be of service to local committees by helping them relate local conditions to long-term national trends in farming and other industries.

This is one of a series of periodic reports on Rural Development Program activities of business, farm, civic, government and other community leadership working together. If you have information that might be of interest to those participating in the program or you wish to receive this Newsletter, address communications to the Editor, Rural Development Program News, Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Non-Agricultural Development A great deal of study should precede any local industry development effort, principally to determine what industries are most suitable and offer the best comparative advantage. In this field it's "too easy to ride off in all directions."

Community Facilities and Services Success in improving health services depends on a local educational campaign, cooperation among all groups, following up with a concrete plan of action.

In education, community resources and talents need to be used more effectively to provide adult vocational training and guidance and counseling for all youth. "Stay in school" campaigns are important in rural areas, where the drop-out rate is high. Along with this, more effort should go into guiding qualified young people toward college and post-high school training.

Because of its usefulness in sound agricultural and industrial development, long-term zoning should receive high priority in local programs. Many resources are available to help RD committees prepare zoning plans.

Better communities will encourage tourism, which is fast becoming one of the nation's major industries.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson and Under Secretary Morse opened the Jackson's Mill meeting May 11. Secretary Benson commended the job being done by local workers in the Rural Development Program.

"You are performing one of the most difficult assignments in the entire agricultural area," he told the group. "You are pioneering methods of solving farm problems. You are working to bring about long needed adjustments in many of our rural areas. You are exploring better ways of helping rural people make the changes - the adjustments - they desire in their own best interests", the Secretary said.

More resources and services must be directed toward meeting the special needs of part-time farmers and those on low-production farms. Under employment and unemployment are the main problems, the Secretary commented.

"This broad segment of our farm and rural population has largely been neglected. These families cannot be served effectively by programs designed primarily for commercial agriculture. Most of them gain little, if any, benefits from price supports and government commodity stabilization programs", the Secretary said.

Secretary Benson said also he was requesting U. S. Department of Agriculture agencies to reappraise their role in the Rural Development Program and would consult with Deans of Agriculture in all States with a view toward stepping up the work.

The Jackson's Mill conference, it is expected, will result in similar State and local workshops on rural and resource development programs in many of the 30 participating States.

(If you want a copy of the Rural Development Workshop Report summarized above, write to the Editor, Rural Development Program News, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

(Based on reports of rural development throughout the Nation,
including pilot counties and others.)

Tennessee To encourage conservation and add income on small farms in RD counties, the State ASC committee recently granted additional funds to these counties for the conservation cost-share program.

Mississippi More "balance agriculture with industry" certificates were issued in 1958 than in any previous year, the State board in charge of this program has announced. The certificates permit bond issues for industrial facilities. Manufacturing employment in this State reached an all-time high last year.

Pennsylvania Farm vacations for city people are an initial project of "Laural Highlands," a new, non-profit organization of people in Fayette County to promote tourism in the area. Fayette is a Rural Development county.

Minnesota Fifty-seven farmers are now participating in the new feeder pig market association, a growing project of the Hubbard County Rural Development Committee.

Kentucky Some 125,000 tree seedlings were set in Martin County last year as a result of RD program promotion and leadership. This was twice the number planted in 1957.

Iowa The Corn State is rapidly becoming one of the Midwest's leading industrial areas, with 3320 manufacturing establishments (1954 census), 85 percent of them employing less than 50 people.

North Carolina A drive by the Bertie County RD group to qualify farm people for social security payments resulted in a 50 percent increase in the number of those receiving benefits. Ninety-five percent of those eligible now receive payments.

South Carolina Seventy-five farm operators in a pilot community are cooperating with the Berkley County RD Committee to improve area drainage and conservation. Four agencies have put in special assistance: Extension, SCS, the ASC Committee, and the South Carolina Highway Department.

Oregon Forest management and forest industries are at the center of the Lincoln County program, with all agencies stepping up their work to help "rural development cooperators" make better use of their woodlot resources.

Louisiana The first year of Rural Development, a new grain elevator; last year a new vegetable shipping shed, complete with grading machines -- this is the record to date in the marketing phase of the Franklin Parish Rural Development Program, which is helping turn this formerly all-cotton area into a vegetable growing center.

KENTUCKY EDUCATION STUDY SHOWS VOCATIONAL TRAINING NEED

More favorable family attitudes toward education, less need for young people to help out around the farm, and greater opportunities for part-time paid work in the community would encourage more rural youths to finish high school, according to a study released recently by the University of Kentucky.

Entitled "The Educational Attainment and Future Plans of Kentucky Rural Youths," the study evaluates attitudes of young people and their mothers toward formal education in three Kentucky Rural Development counties, Butler, Elliott, and Metcalfe. It was authored by E. Grant Youmans in cooperation with the Agricultural Marketing Service.

According to the study, family income and position in the community greatly influence a child's use of available opportunities for education. Mothers' attitudes toward education were also an important factor.

Another important finding of the Kentucky study points up the need for more vocational trades and industry training in schools. Only about 19 percent of the boys interviewed in the three counties selected farming as the kind of work they wanted to do. Yet "none of the boys interviewed indicated they had ever taken a course in trade and industrial education in high school," according to the report.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC GROUP STUDIES At their semi-annual review of agricultural
U. S. RURAL DEVELOPMENT WORK policies in member countries early this month,
the Organization for European Economic Coopera-
tion, a major inter-European advisory group located in Paris, brought under study
low income farm problems and rural development type programs in the United States
and the United Kingdom. Representatives of countries attending the review showed
considerable interest in the Rural Development Program and similar grass-roots
development work in the U. S. There was general agreement that in view of U. S.
rural low-income problems, balanced farm-industry area development offered the
best approach in this country. Joseph C. Doherty, Editor of the Rural Develop-
ment Program News, attended the review as an advisor to the U. S. delegation.

LINCOLN COUNTY NEWSLETTER The Lincoln County, Nevada, Rural Development Committee is first in the field with a county-wide newsletter to help publicize the program. A recent issue contained stories on land use, a pending market survey, recreation area development, and the national RD workshop (see page 1) attended by the local Rural Development agent. Urging local citizens to attend the monthly Rural Development Committee meeting, the Lincoln newsletter comments, "There will be a vital and interesting list of projects and reports at this meeting. It only takes an hour or two of your time. So join this group that is trying to make a better and economically sound Lincoln County."